

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05

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P 130530Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8914

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 3474

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT BM

SUBJ: AP STORY ON RANGOON SITUATION

REF: STATE 272686

1. EMBOFF WHOM AP REACHED BY PHONE FROM NEW YORK DID NOT RPT NOT COMMENT ON CURRENT SITUATION AND DID NOT RPT NOT USE PHRASE "ACTING WITH A VERY HEAVY HAND." HE DID SUPPLY SOME INFORMATION, ON BACKGROUND AND NOT RPT NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION TO EMBASSY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR STANDARD PRACTICE OF ASSISTING JOURNALISTS WITH SUCH BACKGROUND INFORMATION. AP CORRESPONDENT ULEVICH, WHO ARRIVED RANGOON AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 12, HAS APOLOGIZED FOR AP NEW YORK'S QUOTING EMBOFF IN DISREGARD OF ACCEPTED JOURNALISTIC CONVENTION.

2. WE HAVE NO PLANS TO COMMENT ON SITUATION, BUT WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO RENDER OUR USUAL ASSISTANCE TO VISITING JOURNALISTS.

3. IF QUERIED FURTHER, SUGGEST DEPT SPOKESMAN DECEMBER 13 STATE THAT NO VIOLENCE HAS BEEN DIRECTED AT AMERICANS OR OTHER FOREIGNERS AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO KNOWN INJURIES TO AMERICANS OR DAMAGE TO AMERICAN PROPERTY. SPOKESMAN MIGHT ALSO NOTE THAT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN REPORTED BY EMBASSY IN CONSIDERABLE DETAIL, AND THAT ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS INCLUDING THREATS TO AMERICAN LIVES OR PROPERTY WILL OF COURSE ALSO BE REPORTED.

LACEY

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